

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.J. Res. 58—Disapproving the Certification of the President Regarding
Foreign Assistance to Mexico
H.R. 852—Paperwork Elimination Act**



H.J. Res. 58—Disapproving the Certification of the President Regarding Foreign Assistance to Mexico

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.J. Res. 58 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a modified closed rule providing for two hours of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the International Relations Committee. It makes in order an amendment by Mr. Hastert or his designee, debatable for 20 minutes equally divided between a proponent and an opponent. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.J. Res. 58 rejects and overrules President Clinton's February 28, 1997, decision to certify Mexico as an ally in the United States' war on drugs. The resolution disapproves the determination by the president that Mexico has fully cooperated with U.S. anti-drug efforts during the previous year. Enacting a disapproval resolution would impose certain economic sanctions on Mexico, such as withholding bilateral U.S. assistance and opposing any loans the country may receive from multilateral development banks. However, the resolution authorizes the president to waive these sanctions if he determines that the U.S. has a compelling national security interest in doing so. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Shaw and was ordered reported by the International Relations Committee by a 27-5 vote.

Views (on the overall resolution):**Republican Leadership:** Supports**Chairman Gilman:** Supports**President Clinton:** Opposes

Amendments: The rule makes in order one amendment to be offered by Mr. Hastert or his designee, debatable for 20 minutes equally divided between a proponent and an opponent.

Mr. Hastert will offer an amendment to delay the decertification of Mexico for 90 days unless the president obtains reliable assurances from Mexico to cooperate in certain areas of anti-drug cooperation. Specifically, the president must certify to Congress within 90 days that he has obtained assurances from the Mexican government to make substantial progress toward (1) eliminating law enforcement corruption in Mexico; (2) allowing additional Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or other U.S. law enforcement agents to operate in Mexico, with appropriate privileges and immunity; (3) granting the right to carry firearms for self-defense to U.S. law enforcement agents operating in Mexico; (4) extraditing Mexican nationals wanted by the U.S. government for drug trafficking and other drug-related offenses; (5) securing aircraft overflight and refueling rights necessary for full cooperation with U.S. counter-narcotics efforts, including radar coverage to detect and monitor aircraft suspected of drug trafficking; and (6) preparing a permanent maritime agreement to allow U.S. Coast Guard and other appropriate vessels to halt and hold drug traffickers pursued in Mexican waters.

The resolution also establishes a 14-member Commission on International Narcotics which will (1) conduct a review of the certification process, (2) determine its effectiveness to curtail international drug-trafficking, (3) determine if the process should be reformed, and (4) map out a long term U.S. strategy to win the drug war. The commission must file an interim report to Congress within six months, followed by a final report within one year of its establishment. The resolution authorizes such sums as necessary for the commission to carry out its duties.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #6, March 7, 1997.

**H.R. 852—Paperwork Elimination Act**

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 852 after it completes consideration of H.J. Res 58. On Tuesday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Small Business Committee. The rule grants priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 852 requires the federal government to comply with the intent of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (*P.L. 104-13*), which requires that federal agencies provide the option of electronic submission of information, electronic compliance with regulations, and electronic disclo-

sure of information to all who must comply with federal regulations. Specifically, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to: (1) ensure that all federal agencies make necessary changes to facilitate electronic communications; (2) make such electronic means available to other entities which conduct business on behalf of the government; and (3) provide regular reports on the progress of federal agency efforts to establish electronic facilities. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. H.R. 852 was introduced by Mr. Talent and ordered reported by the Small Business Committee by voice vote.

Views:

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Talent: Supports

President Clinton: Has No Objection

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to H.R. 852.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #6, March 7, 1997.



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